
Subject: Dual Participation

Effective Date: October 1, 2015

Revised from: November 1, 2008

Policy: No client shall receive benefits in more than one WIC program or under more than one identity. Such dual participation is illegal and is a form of program abuse and as such is subject to sanctions. Program benefits obtained or disbursed improperly may result in a reimbursement claim against the client for the full value of such benefits.

In conjunction with Local Agencies (LA), the State Agency (SA) is responsible for preventing and identifying dual participation within each LA. The SA or LA must take follow-up action within 120 days of detecting instances of suspected dual participation.

Dual participation is considered fraudulent when the SA or LA determines that a client has intentionally enrolled more than once in one program or has enrolled in two programs and has simultaneously accepted benefits from both enrollments.

The SA may refer to any LA, the name of any client who appears on a list of possible dual participants generated as per the written agreement the SA has with a bordering state. The LA shall follow the same review and investigative requirements as set forth in this policy.

Reference: CFR §246.7(I)

Procedure:

1. At initial certification and recertification, the LA staff/employee entering client or applicant data in KWIC shall resolve or attempt to resolve any instances in which potential dual participation is warned. If unable to resolve at the appointment, staff may indicate "Unknown" and resolve the question as soon as possible.
2. Each LA shall, at least monthly, run the Potential Dual Participation report that is available in the report section in Client Services in KWIC.
3. A designated LA staff person shall review the Potential Dual Participation report to identify and subsequently investigate any client who appears to be engaged in dual participation. The initial review shall include comparing client information such as last name, first initial of first name, birth month and year, sex, and program category.
4. If the LA finds a client to be enrolled in more than one program or more than once in the same program, the LA shall, after consulting with the other WIC agency, immediately make a note in KWIC and terminate the client from one of the programs. The 15-day notice requirement does not apply when terminating a client from one of the two programs.
5. If the LA finds a client to be participating in more than one program and fraud is involved, the LA shall suspend the client in both programs and may require the client to repay the full value of

fraudulently issued benefits. [See PRI 02.02.00 Collection of Improperly Issued Benefits/Claims Against Clients.]

6. If the LA, after consulting with the SA, determines that suspension from both programs will result in a serious health risk to the client, or agrees to an alternate caregiver or proxy for the client, the LA may waive the termination from one program.
7. If the LA suspends a client because of dual participation, the LA shall send the client a KWIC generated suspension letter at least fifteen days prior to enforcement of the suspension. The KWIC suspension letter includes information that the client has the right to a fair hearing.
8. If the LA suspends a client because of dual participation in which the client intentionally misrepresented himself/herself, the LA shall immediately notify the SA. The LA shall send the client the KWIC generated suspension letter. The suspension letter includes information that the client has the right to a fair hearing. [See Policy PRI: 03.01.00]
9. If repayment of benefits is assessed, the LA shall prepare a separate letter regarding information as to the repayment of the inappropriately issued benefits. [See Policy PRI: 02.02.00]
10. The LA shall notify the SA when it determines a client has inappropriately participated in WIC. The SA will work with the LA to determine appropriate sanctions and may instruct the LA to refer the client to Federal, State, or local authorities for possible prosecution under applicable statutes.

See also [PRI 02.00.00 Program Abuse and Sanctions](#).